



## H.Res. 127 – Recognizing and celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry of Alaska in the Union as the 49<sup>th</sup> State.

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 127 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Don Young (R-AK) on February 5, 2007. The resolution was ordered to be reported by voice vote by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on April 16, 2008.

H.Res. 127 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 9, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 127 resolves that the House of Representatives recognizes and celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49<sup>th</sup> State.

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### BACKGROUND

Secretary of State William Seward organized the purchase of Alaska for the United States from the Russian Empire in 1867. In 1912, Alaska was granted territorial status within the United States. July 7, 2008 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Alaska Statehood Act, which granted Alaska admission into the Union as the forty-ninth state.

Alaska is the largest state by area in the United States, more than twice the size of Texas. There are over 58 million acres of wilderness in the state. It currently provides over 16 percent of the daily crude oil production in the United States. "Alaska" is derived from the Aleut word meaning "mainland". The population of the state is approximately 626,932.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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